

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 JIDDA 03190 261639Z

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W

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O 261548Z APR 78

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 1876

C O N F I D E N T I A L JIDDA 3190

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGSC: PPDC, SA

SUBJECT: LETTER FROM KING KHALID TO PRESIDENT CARTER

1. EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED LETTER FROM KING KHALID TO PRESIDENT CARTER. FOLLOWING IS INFORMAL EMBASSY TRANSLATION.

2. BEGIN TEXT: HIS EXCELLENCY JIMMY CARTER, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES. YOUR EXCELLENCY: HIS EXCELLENCY AMBASSADOR WEST BROUGHT ME YOUR KIND LETTER OF APRIL 14, 1978. NO DOUBT THE AMBASSADOR HAS INFORMED YOUR EXCELLENCY THAT I WELCOMED IT AND SENT SINCEREST GREETINGS.

3. IT IS CLEAR THAT THE RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR COUNTRIES ARE BECOMING STRONGER, DEEPER AND MORE FLOURISHING DURING YOUR EXCELLENCY'S ADMINISTRATION. THE UNDERLYING REASON FOR THAT, I HAVE NO DOUBT, IS THE GREAT INTEREST WHICH YOUR EXCELLENCY IS SHOWING IN THE GROWTH OF TIES OF FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION AND IN STRENGTHENING THESE TIES SO THAT THEY WILL REMAIN STRONG AND FIRM IN THE FACE OF EVENTS AND CIRCUMSTANCES.

4. CERTAINLY, YOU SENSE HOW EAGER WE ARE TO KEEP THESE RELATIONS AND TIES FLOURISHING AND TO MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO STRENGTHEN THEM.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 JIDDA 03190 261639Z

5. DERIVED FROM THESE TIES OF FRIENDSHIP IS OUR PARTICIPATION WITH YOU IN WORKING FOR THE SOLUTION OF PROBLEMS CONCERNING THE TWO BASIC QUESTIONS WHICH WE BOTH DESIRE TO SOLVE--ESTABLISHING PEACE IN THE REGION AND ACHIEVING WORLD PROSPERITY.

6. YOUR EXCELLENCY IS COMPLETELY AWARE OF THE EFFORTS THE KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA IS MAKING CONCERNING THESE TWO ISSUES, BOTH OF WHICH, WE KNOW, HAVE DEEP INFLUENCE AND IMPORTANCE, NOT ONLY FOR THE REGION IN WHICH WE LIVE BUT FOR THE WORLD AS A WHOLE.

7. LIKEWISE, WE DO NOT NEED TO REAFFIRM THE IMPORTANCE FOR US OF THE PALESTINIAN QUESTION AND TO REPEAT THAT IT OCCUPIES FIRST PLACE IN OUR ATTENTION.

8. THEREFORE WE ARE WATCHING THE DEVELOPMENT OF EVENTS IN THIS QUESTION WITH EXTREME ANXIETY. WE FEAR FOR THE FINAL RESULT OF THE UNFORTUNATE STATE INTO WHICH THE SITUATION HAS DETERIORATED, AND WE FEEL MUCH BITTERNESS WHEN WE COME UP AGAINST THE INTRANSIGENCE OF ISRAEL AND WHAT SHE DOES TO HINDER THE COURSE OF PEACE. WE FEEL SHE IS BEGINNING TO HAGGLE, INDIFFERENT TO THE SENSITIVITY OF THE QUESTION FOR THE ARAB AND ISLAMIC STATES. THIS ENTIRE ISSUE IS A MATTER OF EXTREME SERIOUSNESS, AS YOUR EXCELLENCY UNDERSTANDS VERY WELL.

9. YOUR FRIENDS AMONG THE ARABS HAVE NOT LOST HOPE IN YOUR SOUND JUDGMENT AND IN THE GOODNESS OF YOUR ACTIONS. AT THE SAME TIME, THEY ARE CONFIDENT THAT YOUR GREAT CONCERN FOR ESTABLISHING PEACE, SECURITY, AND PROSPERITY WILL OVERCOME, GOD WILLING, THE CURRENT DIFFICULTIES.  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 JIDDA 03190 261639Z

10. I DO NOT NEED TO SAY ANYTHING ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF THE TIME ELEMENT IN THIS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT MATTER, FOR THAT IS CLEAR TO YOU IN YOUR WISDOM. IN THE COURSE OF TIME, THE PROBLEM WILL BECOME INCREASINGLY COMPLICATED AND TAKE ON NEW AND SPREADING DIFFICULTIES.

11. WE HAVE AFFIRMED THE HONESTY OF OUR DETERMINATION TO REACH THE PEACE WE ARE SEEKING. WE AFFIRMED THIS DURING OUR JOINT DISCUSSIONS BOTH IN THE VISIT WHICH HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS CROWN PRINCE FAHD MADE AND WHEN WE HAD THE HONOR OF RECEIVING YOU IN THE KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA DURING YOUR HISTORIC VISIT HERE. DURING THAT VISIT I REALIZED PERSONALLY AND AT FIRST HAND YOUR DETERMINATION TO REACH THE POSITIVE RESULTS WHICH CAN ACHIEVE PEACE.

12. IT IS APPROPRIATE IN THIS CONTEXT TO REAFFIRM TO YOUR EXCELLENCY THAT WHAT THE KINGDOM DID FOR YOU DURING THAT VISIT WAS ONLY PART OF ITS DUTY TOWARD A GREAT AMERICAN PRESIDENT, OF WHOM THE U.S. SHOULD BE PROUD, AND TOWARD A DEAR FRIEND WHOSE FRIENDSHIP WE ARE PROUD OF.

13. BECAUSE OF THAT FIRM FRIENDSHIP WHICH UNITES BOTH  
OUR COUNTRIES AND THE TWO OF US PERSONALLY, WE CANNOT  
DISPENSE WITH THE EXCHANGE OF ADVICE, INFORMATION AND  
OPINIONS ABOUT EVERYTHING WHICH WOULD ACHIEVE OUR JOINT  
INTERESTS AND THE FOSTERING OF OUR GOOD RELATIONS AND  
ACHIEVE EVERYTHING THAT WILL LEAD TO THE SECURITY OF THE  
REGION AND ITS SAFETY.

14. PLEASE ACCEPT, YOUR EXCELLENCY, MY BEST GREETINGS  
/S/ KHALID BIN ABD AL-AZIZ AL-SAUD, RIYADH, APRIL 25, 1978.  
END TEXT.

15. EMBASSY WILL SEND ORIGINAL TEXT OF LETTER BY POUCH.  
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PAGE 04 JIDDA 03190 261639Z

CONFIDENTIAL

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## Message Attributes

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**Decaption Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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